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LSE Brexit in 2019: highlights from a year of insightful research

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LSE Brexit in 2019: highlights from a year of insightful research

*2019 was the year when Brexit became a certainty, and it will affect Britons' lives in myriad ways. Co-editors **Ros Taylor** and **Roch Dunin-Wąsowicz** pick out some of the highlights of LSE Brexit's coverage.*



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1. Duncan Morrow on Northern Ireland

For my money, no one in academia writes more clearly about the border tensions in Northern Ireland. (RT)

[In Northern Ireland, old fears and long shadows](#)

2. What's wrong with the WTO

In this prescient post, Steve Woolcock (LSE) explains why the World Trade Organization is faltering and 'Let's Go WTO' is a fantasy. (RT)

[WTO rules OK? Not any more](#)

3. European Parliament election posters from 1979

In 2019, Britain took part in its last European Parliament elections. These posters and campaign materials from LSE Library are a poignant reminder of the hope that the idea of Europe carried in 1979, when the first EP elections were held. (RT)

[Campaigning leaflets from the first European Parliament election in 1979](#)

4. Do the French care about Brexit?

They're devastated that we're leaving ... Er, no. Some of them think we've left already. (RT)

[Le Brexit? Bof! French attitudes to the UK's departure](#)

5. Why epistocracies are a bad thing

The idea of a 'voting test' has been mooted by some thinkers. Linsey McGoey (University of Essex) disagrees. (RT)

[How John Stuart Mill can help tame ideological Brexit free-riders](#)

6. What makes a prorogation improper?

Legal scholar Tarun Khaitan responds to Anne Twomey's post for LSE Brexit, arguing for an alternative test of whether Boris Johnson's move to prorogue Parliament was improper. (RT)

[From 'purpose' to 'effect': a principled way to decide whether prorogation is legal](#)

7. 'Are they even aware that we can see them?'

Lisa McKenzie's reports on her interviews with working-class Britons in Nottinghamshire and east London are consistently among the most popular posts on LSE Brexit. (RT)

['Are they even aware that we can see them?' Working-class Britons on Brexit politics](#)

8. What if the UK had taken advantage of the EU's 'three-month rule'?

Tessa Buchanan (UCL) and colleagues suggest that the notion the EU allows 'unlimited migration' is inaccurate. (RT)

[What policy do British voters want on EU immigration? Is there a hidden consensus?](#)

9. Negotiating with the EU proved very difficult. Why?

LSE's N Piers Ludlow says that Britain never really understood how the EU worked, despite its long membership. (RT)

[Did we ever really understand how the EU works?](#)

10. Economic consequences of Brexit are overwhelmingly negative

The economic consequences of Brexit are overwhelmingly negative, estimate Swati Dhingra and Thomas Sampson (LSE). (RDW)

[Economic consequences of Brexit are overwhelmingly negative](#)

11. Global Britain? Replacing the EU with the Commonwealth is fanciful

Replacing participation in the European Union with enhanced cooperation at the Commonwealth is not a viable option for the UK, writes Rishi Gulati (LSE). (RDW)

[Global Britain? Replacing the EU with the Commonwealth is fanciful](#)

12. Does New Zealand provide Brexit lessons for Britain?

Hamish McDougall (LSE) argues that parallels between New Zealand and Britain in the event of a no-deal Brexit are tenuous. (RDW)

[Does New Zealand provide Brexit lessons for Britain?](#)

13. Will of the people vs democracy: Brexiteers are turning into their own worst enemy

Brexiteers have begun to behave just like their worst enemy, writes Pravar Petkar (LSE). (RDW)

[Will of the people vs democracy: Brexiteers are turning into their own worst enemy](#)

14. The powerful psychological rationale behind the desire for a no-deal Brexit

Nick Westcott (SOAS) writes about the political psychology of Brexit. (RDW)

[Long read | The powerful psychological rationale behind the desire for a no-deal Brexit](#)

15. The European Union is a liberal empire, and it is about to fall

The European Union is a liberal empire, and it is about to fall, warns Wolfgang Streeck (Max Planck Institut). (RDW)

[Long read | The European Union is a liberal empire, and it is about to fall](#)

16. It's the English, stupid! Brexit is an expression of English nationalism

Hudson Meadwell (McGill University) writes that the national structure of the UK and Britain, and the political organisation and expression of that structure, are keys to understanding Brexit. (RDW)

[It's the English, stupid! Brexit is an expression of English nationalism](#)

17. Is Brexit the will of the people? The answer is not quite that simple

Is Brexit really the will of the British people? **Christian List (LSE)** takes a critical look at this question. (RDW)

[Is Brexit the will of the people? The answer is not quite that simple](#)

18. Labour's Brexit capitulation is the end of Corbynism

The Labour party's Brexit capitulation was a betrayal of Labour supporters who voted Leave, and it heralds the end of Corbynism as a political project, argues Lee Jones (QMUL). (RDW)

[Long read | Labour's Brexit capitulation is the end of Corbynism](#)